

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update June 2 - 8, 2011

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222
TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 6:00pm

ROADS: Major Eastern Sierra roads are open, including HWY 395. Trans Sierra roads - SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are open. SR 120 (Tioga Pass) is closed due to remaining winter snow. Monitor Pass (SR 89) is open. *Slow for the Cone Zone*, while traveling through maintenance and construction work zones. For current California highway conditions and construction schedules, call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623), or visit the web at www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi. Call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) or visit the web at www.nevadadot.com/traveler/roads for Nevada roads.

In **YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**, the Glacier Point road is open. BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK road (SR 270) is open. The road to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is closed due to snow. In Bishop Creek, the roads are open. In the White Mountains, the road to the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest is open to Schulman Grove. The dirt road north of Schulman Grove is open to its junction with the Wyman Canyon Road, closed to the north of the junction. Silver and Wyman Canyon roads are open; high clearance vehicles recommended. Big Pine, Onion Valley and Whitney Portal roads are open. Horseshoe Meadow road is closed at the Carroll Creek gate; scheduled to open Friday, 6/10.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. The Big Pine, Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course, West Side and Upper Wildrose dirt roads are open. The North Saline Valley road is open; 4x4 high clearance vehicles recommended. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County. Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a good backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. For descriptions of backcountry roads, check the web at www.nps.gov/deva (Plan Your Visit/Things To Do/Outdoor Activities) and the Morning Report for current information.

WEATHER: Unsettled weather, generating gusty winds and cooler temperatures midweek over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave, will transition to clear skies with warmer temperatures by Friday. This weekend a storm system is expected to be located off the California coast, producing periods of gusty winds and a chance of showers over the mountains as the system moves inland Sunday and Monday. Fair weather is forecast by the middle of next week. Highs have been in the 20s in the mountains, mid 70s in the Owens Valley and mid 90s in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the teens in the mountains, to the 60s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. Additional privately operated campgrounds & RV facilities are open throughout the area. The **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** campgrounds (fee area/no drinking water) at Horton Creek and Crowley Lake are open. Tuttle Creek and Goodale Creek are closed for renovations.

INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FORESTS, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, many campgrounds are open. **BEARS ARE ACTIVE** - use food storage lockers when provided and check with campground hosts for more information. Please make sure that all food and trash is properly stored.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Yosemite Valley sites, Wawona (SR 41) and Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat) are open and have sites available on a reservation basis. Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows will open later in the summer (estimated opening 7/15); sites may be reserved now. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through recreation.gov; or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. For park information, visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

Campgrounds are open in the **SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST** on the Kern River and at Lake Isabella on a reservation, or a first-come/first-served basis. For more information, call 1-760-379-5646 or visit the web at www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia.

In **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK**, open sites include: Furnace Creek, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/free), Thorndike (no water/free), Mahogany Flat (no water/free) and Wildrose (water/free). RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. Visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/deva for information.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Fish & Game

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

California - Department of Transportation

National Park Service

Bureau of Land Management

Mono County

USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and many lakes and streams are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The **BISHOP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** has fishing reports for many locations in the area: call 1-760-873-8405 for more information. The 2011 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting good stores throughout the region. California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

WINTER SPORTS: **MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN** is open with a 9 to 17 foot base. For information, visit the web site at www.mammothmountain.com or call 1-888-766-9778.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared with winter gear for snowy and icy terrain, cold temperatures and sudden weather changes. Significant snowpack remains at higher elevations. Snow conditions make trails difficult to locate and passes very slick. Mountaineering and navigation skills are required. The snow level on the Whitney region is approximately 9,500 feet (lower on north facing slopes). In Yosemite National Park, the current snow level is approximately 6,250 feet. The Half Dome cables are not in place.

BEARS (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use approved portable, bear-resistant food canisters on the Cottonwood Pass, Cottonwood Lakes, Mt. Whitney, Kearsarge Pass, Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Dusy Basin, Palisade, Little Lakes Valley, Duck Pass/Purple Lake and Rush Creek/Mammoth lakes trails of the National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Inyo National Forest wilderness areas. Permits may be obtained at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), Bishop Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) during office hours. Reservations for wilderness permits can be made up to six months in advance of the starting date of a trip, by phone at 1-760-873-2483, fax to 1-760-873-2484, or by mail - 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514. The Whitney zone permit lottery is closed; any remaining spaces are available now for reservations (check the web). For information on permits, including an application form and fees, visit the web at www.fs.usda.gov/inyo.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

MONO COUNTY MUSEUM in Bridgeport, is open Tuesday - Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm, with great exhibits and photos of old mining days and a fine collection of Paiute baskets.

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 9:00am to 6:00pm. A history talk is presented daily. Other interpretive programs are offered; check at the museum for more information. The museum is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Visitors should bring drinking water and food for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

Nature walks are presented on Saturday & Sunday in the **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE** at 1:00pm. Check at the Visitor Center, one mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm for a complete list of activities, information and a video presentation on this remarkable lake.

MONO BASIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM in Lee Vining's Old School House (at Hess Park) is open Thursday through Monday, 10:00am to 4:00pm (Sunday opening at noon), with photos, displays and artifacts on the history of the Mono Basin.

Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for current snow and road conditions, trail maps, recreation information and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm, or call 1-760-924-5500.

The **ANCIENT BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST VISITOR CENTER** at Schulman Grove is open weekends, 10:00am to 5:00pm.

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily, with exhibits on Inyo County; including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm. Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at www.nps.gov/manz for information.

Visit the Beverly & Jim Rogers **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**; with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. The museum opens daily at 10:00am; closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday and at 4:00pm on Sunday.

BLM JAWBONE STATION REGIONAL OHV FACILITY is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily for trip assistance. The station is located 25 miles north of Mojave on SR 14 for pre-trip information; call 1-760-373-1146.

Visit the **KERN VALLEY MUSEUM** to explore the fascinating history of the Old West through artifacts and memorabilia that make history come alive, in Kernville; open 10:00am to 4:00pm Thursday through Sunday.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER (temporary) at the Furnace Creek Ranch is open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm. **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:30am to 4:00pm daily.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center.

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